

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 8. The status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Original) An information storage apparatus comprising:

a mark reading section for reading a mark written on an information storage medium, said information storage medium which has a recording area divided into a plurality of regions, on which information is recorded by writing a mark, and from which information is reproduced by reading the recorded mark; and

a recording state changing section for changing a recording state in an adjacent region situated next to a failed region from which said mark reading section fails to read a mark among a plurality of said regions so that cross talk caused due to said adjacent region can be reduced if said mark reading section fails to read said mark,

said mark reading section again reading a mark in said failed region after changing a recording state in said adjacent region by said recording state changing section.

2. (Original) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording state changing section erases a mark written in said adjacent region.

3. (Original) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording state changing section writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent

region a mark generating cross talk lower than cross talk caused due to a mark written in said adjacent region.

4. (Original) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording state changing section writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark having a length shorter than that of a mark written in said adjacent region.

5. (Original) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording state changing section writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark having a width narrower than that of a mark written in said adjacent region.

6. (Original) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording state changing section writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark with power weaker than power used when a mark is written in said adjacent region.

7. (Original) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording state changing section changes a recording state in an adjacent region after evacuating information recorded in said adjacent region and restores said evacuated information in said adjacent region after again reading a mark in said failed region by said mark reading section.

8. (Currently Amended) The information storage apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said information storage medium includes an alternative region ~~used in place of said region according to needs~~, said recording state changing section performing evacuation of information recorded in said adjacent region to said alternative region and registration of use of said alternative region instead of said adjacent region before changing a recording state in said adjacent region.

A3 9. (Withdrawn) The information storage apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said recording state changing section restores said information evacuated in said alternative region into said adjacent region after a mark in said failed region is again read by said mark reading section, cancels said registration if restoration of said information proves successful, and maintains said registration if restoration of said information fails.

10. (Withdrawn) An information reproducing method comprising:
mark reading step of reading a mark written in an information storage medium, said information storage medium having a recording area divided into a plurality of regions, information being recorded by writing a mark in said region and reproduced by reading said mark;

recording state changing step of changing a recording state in an adjacent region situated next to a failed region from which a mark fails to be read in said mark reading

step among a plurality of said regions, if said mark reading step fails to read said mark, so that cross talk caused due to said adjacent region can be reduced; and

mark rereading step of again reading said mark in said failed region after changing a recording state in said adjacent region in said recording state changing step.

11. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein said recording state changing step erases a mark written in said adjacent region.

12. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein the recording state changing step writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark generating cross talk lower than cross talk caused due to a mark written in said adjacent region.

13. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein said recording state changing step writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark having a length shorter than that of a mark written in said adjacent region.

14. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein said recording state changing step writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark having a width narrower than that of a mark written in said adjacent region.

15. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein said recording state changing step writes on an overwriting basis in said adjacent region a mark with power weaker than power used when writing a mark in said adjacent region.

16. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, further comprising:

evacuating step of evacuating information recorded in said adjacent region before said recording state changing step; and

restoration step of restoring said information evacuated in said evacuating step into said adjacent region after said mark rereading step.

17. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 10, wherein said information storage medium includes an alternative region used in place of said region according to needs,

said method including an evacuation step for performing evacuation of information recorded in said adjacent region into said alternative region and registration of use of said alternative region instead of said adjacent region.

18. (Withdrawn) The information reproducing method according to claim 17, further comprising a restoration step for restoring said information evacuated in said

alternative region into said adjacent region, canceling said registration if restoration of said information proves successful, and maintaining said registration if restoration of said information fails.
